

was fastened mainly upon the Greek guides, and the old hatred of the Byzantines filled the hearts of all the survivors.

While these events took place, the Basileus was employed through the early months of 1148 in drawing together all his resources against the Normans. In March he won over the Venetians, by a grant of a Chrysobul enlarging their quarter in Constantinople, to put their fleet at his service. In the summer he sent an army through Thrace to the west coast, and in August, 1148, Corfu was besieged by the allied Byzantines and Venetians. A certain Theodoras, apparently a Greek, commanded for Roger; the siege, vigorously pressed and stubbornly resisted, lasted over a whole year.

Meanwhile the remnants of the crusading armies were streaming back through every port of the Eastern Mediterranean with one long tale of disaster to relate. The Frankish princes of the Holy Land proved almost as detestable as the Greeks, Orientalised, untrustworthy, divided by bitter feuds, they neither attempted nor desired a great inspired effort to save the Latin states. The Prince of Antioch, the Count of Tripoli, strove to enlist the aid of Louis for some purely local

advantage, the reduction of Hamafa or
Aleppo, At
Jerusalem, where Conrad, who had
landed at Acre
in April, joined Louis, the councillors of
the young
Baldwin advocated a joint attack on
Damascus,
a city of great importance and wealth,
and strate-
gically dangerous to Jerusalem, Yet
its capture